

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE**

**HOOD RIVER, OREGON
APRIL 14-17, 2008**

SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

**Randall Julander (General Chair)
USDA-NRCS**

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Soda Springs, CA 95728**

**Scott Pattee – Program, Technical Tour, & Area Chair
Garry Schaeffer – Vendor Chair
Bruce McGurk - Editor**

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**Front: Mount Hood, OR
By Phil Pasteris, CH2M Hill**

**Back: Multnomah Falls, Columbia Gorge, OR
By Bruce McGurk, HHWP**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE
2008 WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE**

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Western Snow Conference Executive Committee Meeting
Hood River, Oregon USA April 14, 2008

In attendance:

Abramovich, Ron	Howe, Hubert	Moore, Brandon
Allerman, Rob	Huffman, Don	Osterhuber, Randall
Brunengo, Matt	Julander, Randy	Palmer, Peter
Farnes, Phil	Kohler, William	Pattee, Scott
Freeman, Gary	Lea, Jolyne	Runions, Karl
Hannaford, Jack	McGurk, Bruce	Schaefer, Garry

General Chair Randy Julander called the meeting to order at 1500.

Minutes of the 2008 Executive Committee Meeting

WSC 2007 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

- ❖ No changes were made to the minutes of the 2007 Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the 2007 WSC Proceedings.

WSC 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

- ❖ McGurk gave a brief report on the 2007 WSC in Hawaii. 59 people attended the conference and income exceeded conference expenses by approximately \$3200. All agreed it was a fine conference in an outstanding location.
- ❖ Pattee reported that all organization for the 2008 WSC has gone well and estimates we're under budget by about \$4000.
- ❖ Abramovich has his sights on a Radison hotel in Canmore, Alberta, Canada for the 2009 WSC. He reported room rates of \$127, and that Canmore's about an hour drive from the Calgary airport and 20 minutes from Banff. He will continue working on conference logistics and a budget to determine the price structure for the conference. The conference will be held April 20-23, 2009.
- ❖ Julander reported that the 2010 WSC will most likely be held in Utah. He is exploring venue options of Logan, Heber, Snowbird, and St. George.
- ❖ Osterhuber reported on the (escalating) trend of WSC attendees waiting until arrival at the conference before registering. Numerous late registrations make many facets of conference organization difficult, and potentially costly. In order to discourage late registration, the Executive Committee unanimously agreed to increase the late registration fee to \$50. The cutoff date will be determined by Osterhuber.

Web Committee

- ❖ Pattee and McGurk showed off the new WSC web site and gave a report on the progress of getting the historic Proceedings scanned and posted on the site. The web site (www.WesternSnowConference.org) is now hosted from the campus of NMSU in Las Cruces, NM, with Al Rango and crew managing the server. There was much discussion among the Executive Committee on future uses of the site with regard to WSC members' access, charging a fee for papers and Proceedings accessed through the web site, and the searchability of the historic Proceedings. McGurk stated that even though the Proceedings will continue to be printed in black and white, PDF postings of conference papers on the web site can be in full color. Starting with the 2008 Proceedings, some CD copies will be made in addition to the printed books. We'll see what the demand is for CD vs book vs CD *and* book.

WSC Membership "Dues"

- ❖ It was agreed that emphasis needs to be put on WSC "dues," that is, that individual member's support advances the conference and snow science. Osterhuber will rework the registration form for 2009 to emphasize this.

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Osterhuber reported a current bank balance of \$20,920.25, and a total equity of \$19,875.15. The WSC had a net profit for Fiscal Year 2007 of -\$4,931.41 and a net profit for the past calendar year of -\$1,857.03.

Osterhuber passed around a copy of the WSC's IRS Form 990 for FY 2007. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted by the Executive Committee. The WSC financial records are housed in Soda Springs, California, and are open for inspection at any time.

WSC 2008 Proceedings Dedication

- ❖ No dedications are planned for printing in the WSC 2008 Proceedings at this time.

Awards Committee

- ❖ Hannaford reported that all three recipients of awards at the 2007 WSC completed their papers for publication. A complete history of WSC award recipients—including those honored with the coveted El Farsante—will be sent to McGurk for publication in the 2008 Proceedings.

Wilderness Committee Report

- ❖ Farnes reported that a new Congressional House Bill, HR 1975, has been introduced and that if passed, may have consequences for the future of hydrometeorological data collection within designated Wilderness Areas. Julander agreed to write a letter on behalf of the WSC to sponsors of the bill. Though the WSC takes no official stand on what should or should not occur in designated Wildernesses, the organization is officially pro hydrometeorological data collection.

Elections for Executive Committee

- ❖ John Lea was nominated and unanimously voted as Western Snow Conference General Chair Elect. He will take over as General Chair at the close of the 2010 WSC. Huffman noted that the Executive Committee has been inattentive in properly electing members to the WSC Areas and the Executive Committee. Pattee passed out copies of the WSC By-Laws that spell out, among other things, the proper and agreed-upon procedure(s) for WSC elections.

Proceedings Editor

- ❖ As McGurk will take over as WSC General Chair at the close of the 2008 conference, he is looking for some help with editing the conference Proceedings. Jolyne Lea volunteered to become co-editor.

Meeting adjourned at 1715.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randall Osterhuber
Secretary/Treasurer, Western Snow Conference
April 21, 2008

Approximately 30 WSC members were in attendance.

General Chair Randy Julander called the meeting to order at 1620.

Minutes of the 2008 WSC Business Meeting

WSC 2007, 2009, 2010

- ❖ Bruce McGurk, Ron Abramovich, and Randy Julander each gave a brief rundown of the past and future WSCs as per the Executive Committee meeting. Abramovich talked about a proposed price structure for WSC 2009 that could include breakfast and lunch as part of the conference registration fee. There was a brief discussion about the passport requirements to get in and out of Canada and it was urged that all WSC members secure a passport well in advance of the April 20, 2009 meeting date.

Treasurer's Report

- ❖ Randall Osterhuber gave a financial report as per the Executive Committee meeting.

WSC Short Course

- ❖ Ron Abramovich led a discussion on the short courses that the WSC has offered in 2007 and 2008. These have been popular with the members and well attended. Abramovich called for any suggestions for a short course topic for the 2009 WSC.

Web Committee

- ❖ Bruce McGurk, Scott Pattee and Brandon Moore discussed and showed off the new WSC web site and gave a brief overview of what's been done, what's new, and what's to be done. It was suggested that having the Proceedings and/or technical papers on the web site in HTML format, as opposed to PDF, might put the site in a more advantageous position for search engines.

WSC Awards

- ❖ Jack Hannaford gave a brief history of the WSC awards and mentioned that the complete listing of the WSC award recipients will be printed in the 2008 Proceedings.

Wilderness Data Collection

- ❖ Phil Farnes described HR 1975 as per the Executive Committee meeting and Randy Julander informed the membership that he will write a letter, on the behalf of the WSC, to the bill's sponsors.

Other Topics

- ❖ Discussion of changing the WSC meeting date ensued, as well as discussion of having the WSC mandate air temperature sensor height (especially at SNOTEL sites during the non-snow months). It was concluded that for now, the WSC will not change the time it meets each year. No consensus was reached on WSC mandated temperature sensor height.

Meeting adjourned at 1700.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randall Osterhuber
Secretary/Treasurer, Western Snow Conference
April 21, 2008

**Award Recipients of the
76th Annual Meeting of the Western Snow Conference
Hood River, Oregon USA**

BEST PAPER

Phillip Farnes
Snow Sinking Studies

BEST STUDENT PAPER
AND WINNER OF THE
JAMES E. CHURCH AWARD

Joe Casola
Assessing the Impacts of Global Warming on Pacific Northwest Snowpack

EL FARSANTE AWARD

Randy Julander
For asserting that before climate researchers use any NRCS data, they check with him first.

ATTENDEES OF THE 76TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN SNOW CONFERENCE

April 14-17, 2008

Hood River, Oregon USA

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